



Home Safety Tips While Away

- 1) Make sure all doors and windows are locked when you leave, even if you have an alarm system and don't forget to activate the alarm!
- 2) Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home when you are away or have a trusted friend or relative house sit in your absence.
- 3) At least two light timers should be set to turn the lights and TV on and off in a logical sequence when away for an extended time period to give the appearance that someone is home.
- 4) Mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up should be made when you are away from home for a period of time.
- 5) Create an up-to-date home inventory including make, model, serial numbers, other detailed descriptions, and photographs of items of value (including jewelry). This inventory should be kept somewhere safe, out of the house.
- 6) Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers should be inscribed with an identifying number unique to its owner (do not use your entire social security number).
- 7) Contact the Hutto Police Department (512) 759-5978 to request extra patrols of your residence while you are out of town.

Holiday Shopping Tips

- 1) Do not leave purchased items visible in the car-leave them in the trunk.
- 2) While shopping in the evening hours may be less crowded, there are also additional potential risks involved. Park in areas that have adequate lighting. Consider shopping with someone rather than going alone.

- 3) Make sure purses and wallets are secure on your person and you are aware of their location at all times.
- 4) Keep the amount of available cash you have at a minimum or separate it into different pockets or locations on or about your person. This way all of it is not lost if your purse or wallet is misplaced or stolen.
- 5) Credit cards offer convenience and security, however, keep track of all cards and keep receipts to compare to your monthly statement.
- 6) Remain aware of your surroundings at all times and move to and from your vehicle with confidence and "purpose". Have keys ready *before* getting to your car so you do not have to search for them while standing near it.
- 7) Report suspicious people or activity to law enforcement *immediately! Better safe than sorry!*
- 8) Most important is to reduce your own vulnerability and do what you can to minimize the possibility that you could be a victim of a crime or accidental loss.

Holiday Entertaining

- 1) Test your smoke alarms.
- 2) Check food regularly while cooking and remain in the home while cooking. Use a timer as a reminder that the stove or oven is on. (Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range!)
- 3) Enforce a "kid-free zone" in the cooking area and make children stay at least three feet away from the stove.
- 4) Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove, oven or any appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.
- 5) Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.
- 6) Purchase a fire extinguisher to keep in the kitchen. Contact the local fire department to receive training on the proper use of extinguishers.

The City of Hutto wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

